

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court Annual Report 2007



Photograph by Emma Budros

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INTRODUCTION: “Renewal”

Calendar year 2007 was dominated by the renewal and remodeling of facilities to adequately serve the area’s population in the 21st century. Having accomplished the relocation and construction of a modern jail, Leelanau County citizens approved the second relocation of their county seat in Leelanau County’s history. With this decision, planning and actual construction began of a new governmental center which is slated for opening early in 2008 at 8527 East Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682. As the project rises from a majestic hilltop view between Suttons Bay and Lake Leelanau, it is shepherded to completion on a daily basis by County Administrator, David Gill, and an active and supportive Leelanau County Commission.

Similarly, with the relocation of the Grand Traverse County District and Probate Courts into new facilities that blend a new building with two historic structures, the Grand Traverse County Commission turned its attention to the remodeling of the historic Courthouse. Planning for that project was completed in 2007 and construction began with the installation of energy efficient windows late in the year. This project is also scheduled for completion in 2008 and occurs under the watchful eye of County Facilities Manager, Danny Brown. The County Commission and the Judges are extremely sensitive to the historic nature of the building and every effort is being made to work with the architect to make certain that the remodeling is consistent with the building’s historic character.

The Antrim County Commission campaigned door-to-door a number of years ago during the last recession to receive the support and funding necessary to completely rehabilitate and renovate their historic Courthouse, which has been well serving the needs of Antrim County residents for several years now. The 13th Circuit Court has been blessed to serve an area that has consistently provided the services, facilities and funds necessary to properly administer the local justice system. We remain grateful to the County Commissioners, past and present, and County Administrators, past and present, who have supported the Court, its programs and its staff.

The year 2007 also saw a continued decline in the number of divorces and felony criminal charges filed. Frankly, we hope these are trends that continue; however, an increase in the number of paternity cases suggests that the commitment to marriage among younger people may well be less than that of the generations which preceded them.

As to the decline in the number of felonies, we believe that this is attributable to a number of factors. For years, all the area Courts have had access to some of the best treatment professionals in the state of Michigan. Strict probation and supervision also increase accountability and the likelihood of successful control of drug or alcohol addiction and a commitment to regular employment. We believe that crime should not pay, and we administer an effective collections program that requires felons to

return to the County the costs of their defense and to victims the restitution which they are owed. Effective community policing and proper use of jail and prison also act as a deterrent.

Of course, the Court must give credit to the programming in our juvenile courts. We believe this programming has produced a reduction in juvenile recidivism. The District Court's Drug and Domestic Violence Courts may also be contributing to a reduction in felony crime. Hopefully, all of these elements will continue to be in place and contribute to the desirability of northwestern Michigan as a place to live, work and raise a family.

JUDGES OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court serves Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. The Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction that hears civil cases involving damages or loss of \$25,000 or more, matters in equity including such things as requests for injunctive relief, domestic relations matters, appellate review of lower courts and tribunals, and criminal felony cases. Circuit Court Judges Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. and Thomas G. Power are the Circuit Court Judges who "ride the circuit" and preside over matters in all three counties. Judicial assignments are made by a random, alternating case selection process.

The Family Division of the Circuit Court was established in 1998 and has jurisdiction over juvenile criminal cases, child abuse and neglect, guardianships of juveniles, and adoption proceedings, as well as domestic relations matters. The Probate Judge for each county is the Presiding Judge of the Family Division within his county of election. The Circuit Court Judges preside over all Grand Traverse County cases encompassed within the jurisdiction of the Family Division that do not involve minor children as well as half of those cases that do involve minor children.

The Chief Judge of the Circuit is responsible for the supervision of all aspects of the Court.

HON. THOMAS G. POWER



Judge Power is a native of Traverse City. He was elected to the bench in 1992. He was re-elected in 1998 and 2004, after running for re-election without opposition. He is currently serving his third term. Judge Power serves as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court. Prior to his election, Judge Power represented Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties in the Michigan State Legislature for ten years. Among his committee assignments was the Judiciary

Committee. Judge Power also practiced law in Traverse City with the law firm of Elhart and Power. Judge Power graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1974, having first obtained his undergraduate degree in Economics from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Judge Power later obtained a Master's Degree in taxation from New York University in 1978. He is a 1968 graduate of Traverse City Central High School.

Judge Power is a member of the Traverse City Rotary Club and is a pilot for the United States Coast Guard Air Auxiliary. He is a past member of the Traverse City School Board and the Grand Traverse/Leelanau Community Mental Health Board.

The Judge is married and has two children.

HON. PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.

Judge Rodgers was first elected to the bench in 1990, and was re-elected without opposition in 1996 and 2002. Judge Rodgers served as Chief Judge from 1992 through 1997 and from 2002 through 2003. Prior to assuming the bench, the Judge was a partner and trial attorney in the law firm of Menmuir, Zimmerman, Rollert and Kuhn.



Judge Rodgers graduated in 1978 from the University of Michigan Law School. He previously obtained his undergraduate degree in economics and political science from the University. He also received a Master of Public Policy Degree from the University in 1977. As a college student, the Judge was a Rotary International Graduate Fellow and spent a year in England studying public finance economics. Later, the Judge joined the Traverse City Rotary Club and served for six years on the Board of Directors of Rotary Charities.

Judge Rodgers has served his community through participation on the City Commission for four years, and was Mayor of the City of Traverse City in 1989. The Judge is an active member of the Michigan Judge's Association, serving on both its Legislative and Executive Committees. In 2007, he served as the organization's President.

Judge Rodgers is married and has four children.

HON. JOSEPH E. DEEGAN

Judge Deegan has served his constituents as Probate Judge presiding over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships and mental health commitments since 1989. Effective January 1, 1998, Judge Deegan also serves the Family Division by presiding over all Leelanau County cases encompassed within the jurisdiction of the Family Division.

Judge Deegan was first elected Probate Judge for Leelanau County in 1988. He took office on January 1, 1989 and was re-elected without opposition to a second term in November of 1994. He began serving as the Antrim County Family Division Judge in 1998 and has been re-elected twice since then without opposition. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Deegan was Leelanau County Prosecuting Attorney for two terms from 1981 to 1988.

Judge Deegan earned his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1963 after obtaining his undergraduate degree from Sacred Heart Seminary College in Detroit.

Judge Deegan and his wife, Jeanne, have seven children and six grandchildren.



HON. DAVID L. STOWE

Judge Stowe was first elected Grand Traverse County Probate Judge in November 2000 and has served in that capacity since January 1, 2001. He is currently in his second term, having been re-elected without opposition in 2006. The Probate Court has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the administration of wills, estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships and the treatment of the adult mentally ill and developmentally disabled. Judge Stowe also serves as a Family Division Circuit Court Judge and presides over one-half of all Grand Traverse County cases within the jurisdiction of the Family Division that involve minor children.

Before taking the bench, Judge Stowe practiced law in Traverse City. He is a past President of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association, and has served on numerous local and state boards involving children, families and seniors. Prior to beginning his legal career, Judge Stowe was a health department sanitarian, high school biology teacher and worked in Washington, D.C. as a lobbyist.

Judge Stowe received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Michigan State University and his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.



HON. NORMAN R. HAYES



Since January 1, 2001, Probate Judge Norman Hayes has served the residents of Antrim County presiding over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships, and mental health commitments. As the Presiding Judge of the Antrim County Family Division, he also supervises all divorce actions, personal protection requests, juvenile delinquency cases, neglected or abused children proceedings, and adoption events.

Prior to becoming Judge of Probate, Judge Hayes served 10 years as a District Court Judge in Antrim, Otsego and Kalkaska counties and 11 years as a Prosecutor. He has previously served as a Director of the Michigan District Judges Association and a Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

Judge Hayes obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and Mott College and earned his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1979. The Judge is married and has three children.

COURT FINANCES

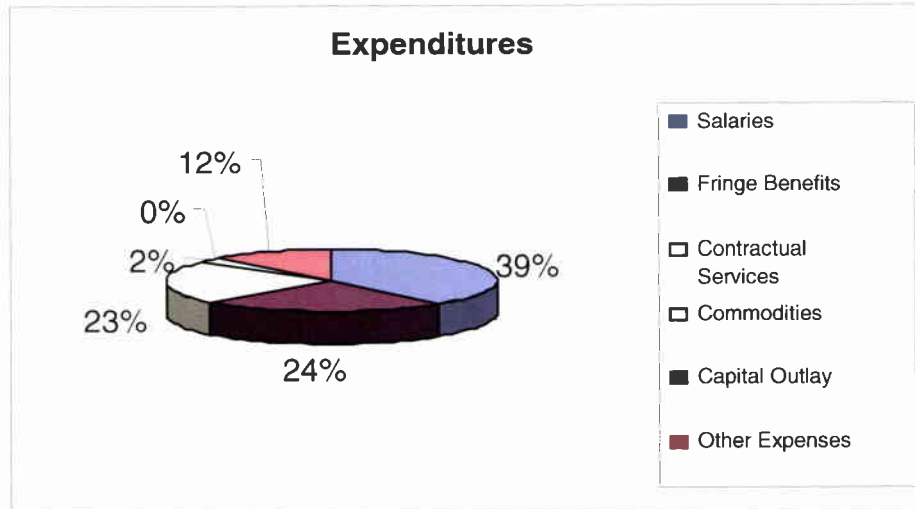
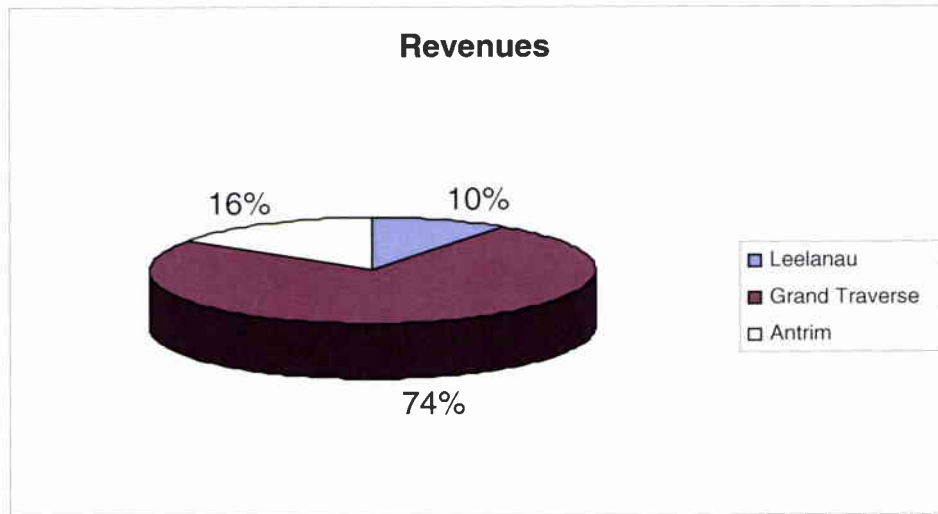
Joint Judicial Commission

Pursuant to an Inter-County Operating Agreement, the Joint Judicial Commission was established to act as a liaison committee among the counties and Judges to coordinate financial and administrative responsibilities between the counties and the Court. The Joint Judicial Commission consists of the Judges, Court Administration, board chairperson, chairperson of the Finance/Ways and Means Committee, County Administrator/Coordinator and Chief Administrative Fiscal Officer from each county.

Grand Traverse County is the designated fiscal agent for the Thirteenth Circuit Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses and for maintaining the Circuit Court Operating Fund. The expenses of operating the Court are divided into "cost-shared" and "cost-direct" expenses. Cost-shared expenses include such items as salaries and fringe benefits, office space, computer data processing, office supplies, and other capital expenditures. These expenses are paid for out of the Operating Fund. On a monthly basis, each county pays into the Fund its pro-rata share of actual expenses incurred. Cost-direct expenses such as Court-appointed attorney fees, jury fees, witness fees, transcript fees and courthouse security costs are paid directly by each individual County.

Revenue and Expenditures

In 2007, Antrim County transferred \$254,861, Leelanau County transferred \$147,551, and Grand Traverse County transferred \$1,299,961 into the Operating Fund. Additional revenue comes from the state, from filing fees and court costs assessed by the County Clerks' Offices.



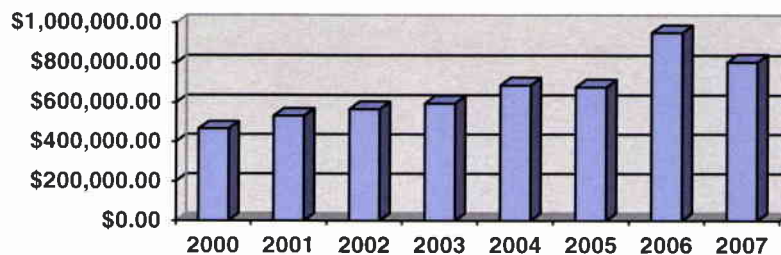
Expenditures for 2007 included:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| \$ 596,792 | Salaries for judicial and administrative staff. |
| \$ 372,709 | Fringe benefits for judicial and administrative staff (incl. FICA of \$40,539). |
| \$ 348,355 | Contractual Services for payments for defense counsel, transcripts, juror payments and mileage, interpreters, professional services and other items central to administration and operation of the Court. |

\$ 29,964	Commodities, primarily for postage and office supplies.
\$ 188,543	Other expenses for costs including such items as equipment rental, printing, utilities, law books, continuing education and liability insurance.
\$ 1,403	Capital Outlays (including law books, office equipment and furniture).

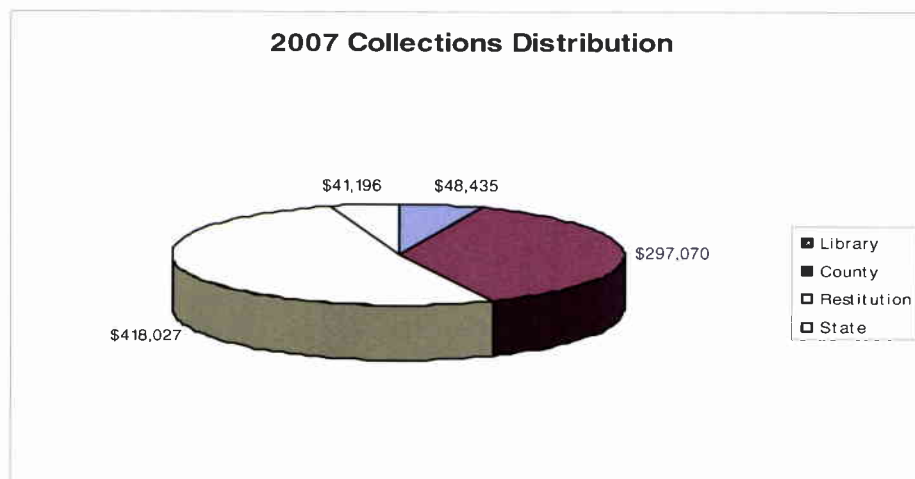
The Court also operates a highly successful collection program that allows the Court to collect fines, costs, court-appointed attorney fees, restitution and crime victim fund payments from convicted felons. In 2007, a total of \$804,727.35 was collected. Of this total, \$111,504.83 was collected in Antrim County, \$102,368.09 in Leelanau County and \$590,854.43 in Grand Traverse County.

13th Circuit Court Collections



These funds go to each of the three Counties. Fines help support the public libraries in each County. Costs and attorney fees go to the Counties to defray the cost of providing court-appointed council for indigent litigants. Most of the remainder of these funds go to the Counties to reimburse the victims of crimes for their losses. A challenging economy is responsible for the first annual decline in total collections since the inception of the program.

2007 Collections Distribution



COURT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The Court Administration Office is staffed by well-trained, highly skilled and personable members of the administrative team who continually strive to improve the Court's delivery of services. Each member of the staff has specific responsibilities and is cross-trained to assist during any other member's absence.



Teri Quinn was appointed Circuit Court Administrator in 2006 after serving as Office Manager for the two years that the Court had no Court Administrator. Teri received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Baker College. She has been involved in the planning for the remodel of the Historic Courthouse in Grand Traverse County. Teri has worked with the State Court Administrative Office in the development of the Judicial Data Network Project and is a member of the Circuit Court Administrator's Association. Teri's duties include the day-to-day supervision of the employees within Circuit Court Administration. She travels the Circuit with the Judges conducting Show Cause hearings as well as pre-trials and Final Conferences.

Terri Lynn Andresen came to Circuit Court Administration from the Friend of the Court's office where she had worked as an enforcement specialist since 1990. She comes to us with a background in finance and a wealth of knowledge regarding Friend of the Court matters. Terri Lynn is our front desk person and the frontrunner of all the paperwork that is received by the Judges.



Julie Arends is a graduate of Ferris State University. After 10 years with a private law firm, she joined Circuit Court Administration in 1995 as a Judicial Secretary. In 2003, Julie became the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Clerk while continuing some of the duties associated with a Judicial Secretary. Julie supervises all aspects of the Court's ADR Program, monitoring the cases ordered into domestic relations mediation or general civil case evaluation or mediation. In 2005, Julie implemented monthly transmission of the Court's case evaluation conflict letters via e-mail to its panel of case evaluators to conserve judicial resources. She also serves as a member of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

Carol Dee has been with the court system for over 30 years. She began her career in 1971 as a secretary in Alpena. In 1985, she came to Grand Traverse County and began working in Circuit Court Records as a



Deputy Clerk. She worked there until 1994 when she was recruited to work in Circuit Court Administration where she helped to create and develop the seamless scheduling program that is now in place. Carol is meticulous about tracking and auditing data. It is due to her dedication and close working relationship with the Judges that this Court disposes of cases in a timely manner. Carol is cross-trained with all other staff in Circuit Court Administration. However, her primary duties include scheduling all criminal and civil cases while complying with the time lines established by the Michigan Supreme Court.



Jacquie Cardinal has been with the Circuit Court since 2001. She started with the Court working at the front desk in Circuit Court Administration. In 2004, Jacquie took over the collections department, managing over 2,500 clients in the three counties. She sets up payment plans with felons who have been ordered to pay fines, costs or restitution or who have been ordered to reimburse the counties for Court-appointed attorney fees. She also initiates show cause hearings when there is a failure to pay. Jacquie distributes victim restitution payments on a monthly basis to victims. In 2006, she collected over \$702,000. The Court recognizes that the payment of costs, fines and restitution is instrumental in the rehabilitation process.

Andrea Humphrey began her work with the Court as an employee for the Commission on Aging in 1994. Six months later she took a position as clerk for the Probate Court in Volunteer Services. She was with the Probate Court as the Family Division evolved and was instrumental in making a smooth transition. In January 2005, we were pleased to have Andrea join our staff as a Circuit Court Specialist.



Andrea's responsibilities focus on the collection of Court-appointed attorney fees for felony cases that are resolved in District Court. Her follow up includes outstanding accounts for the past 10 years and her meticulous recordkeeping keeps the program moving.



Norma Sandelius began her work with the Court in January of 1994. In May 2003, she left the Court and relocated to Florida. Norma returned to the Court in July 2007. Because of her previous knowledge and experience in Civil and Domestic ADR, she was assigned the position of Domestic Relations ADR Clerk and she serves as a member of the Grand Traverse-Antrim-Leelanau Bar Association ADR Committee. Norma is also responsible for scheduling all of the Domestic Relations Referee matters.



Court Reporters

Karen Carmody and **Jessica Jaynes** are the Court's official Court Reporters. Like the Judges, the Court Reporters "ride the circuit," reporting in each of the three counties, as needed.



Judicial Assistants

Each of the Circuit Court Judges employs a full time Judicial Assistant who conducts legal research, drafts judicial opinions and orders and serves as a liaison between the Court and the jury during jury trials. The Assistants also facilitate the movement of the cases by preparing civil scheduling conference orders, reviewing pleadings, communicating with counsel, and working with litigants and their counsel during the final settlement conferences.



Mike Rader is Judge Power's Judicial Assistant. Prior to working for the Court, Mike worked for a local private law firm. Mike has been with the Court for more than 20 years.



Barbara Budros is a Judicial Staff Attorney to Judge Rodgers. Barbara is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and Michigan. She has a background in criminal prosecution and civil litigation. Barbara is a trained facilitative mediator. She authored the Court's ADR Plan and serves on the local bar association's ADR Committee. Barbara also authored the Court's Plan for Appointment of Counsel to Represent Indigent Parties and the Court's Case Management Plan. Barbara has been the writer, editor and photographer of the Court's Annual Report since 1998. In 2007, Barbara was elected to a four-year term on the City Commission for the City of Traverse City.

CASE MANAGEMENT

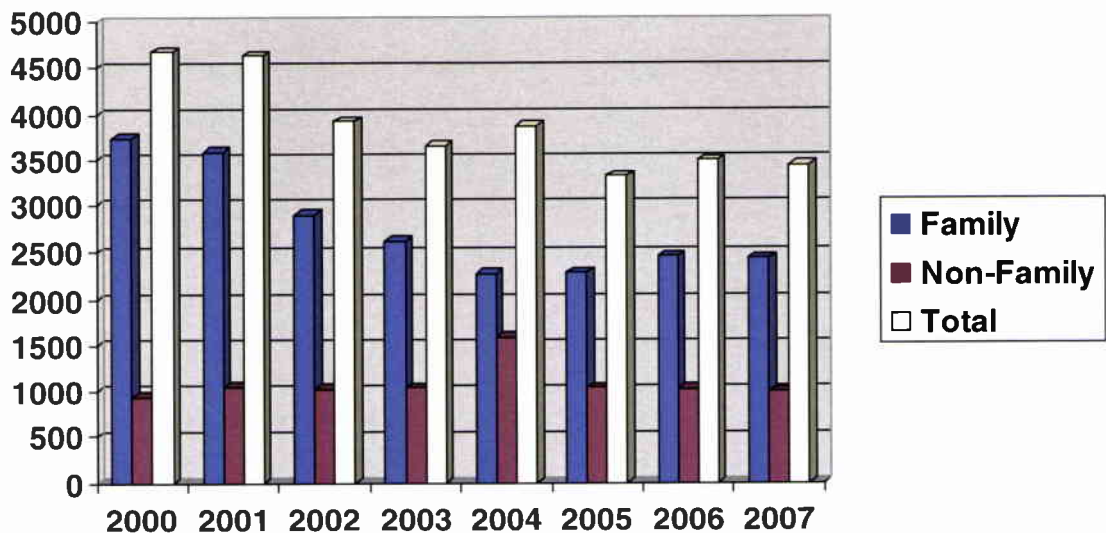
The Thirteenth Circuit strictly adheres to the Michigan Court Rules time lines and Administrative Orders regarding case flow management. In every case, the Court's Scheduling Order sets forth the time line for the disposition of the case consistent with the time lines set by the State Court Administrative Office ("SCAO"). The Court's administrative staff provides intensive case management to "move the docket" and to avoid the aging of the Court's cases. Throughout Michigan, this Court has developed a

reputation as a “well-oiled machine” that resolves cases in a short time frame. The Court’s case management system requires constant monitoring and follow up with the result that a litigated civil dispute can realistically be resolved within a calendar year and a criminal case within a few months.

Caseload

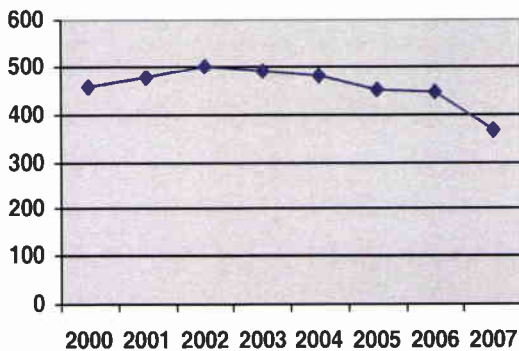
There were 821 cases pending at the beginning of 2007. A total of 3,434 new cases were filed during 2007. Of these new filings, 996 were Non-Family Circuit Court cases and 2,438 were Family Division cases. The Judges disposed of a total of 3,822 cases during the year and only 761 cases were still pending at the end of the year.

13th Circuit Court New Case Filings



Recent Trends

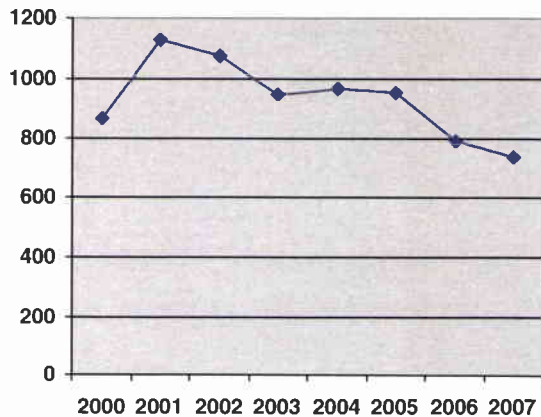
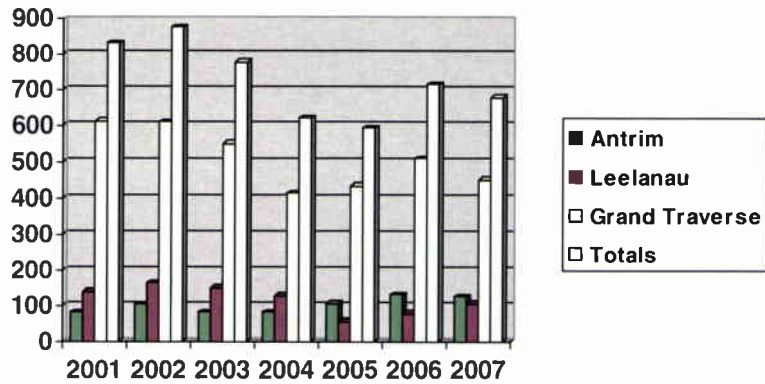
Felony Criminal



The number of felony criminal cases filed in the Circuit has declined again for the fifth year in a row, after a big upward surge between 1999 and 2002. Theft offenses, drunk driving and controlled substance offenses account for the vast majority of the felonies committed in the circuit. The Court has not noticed a significant increase in assaultive crimes. Community policing, effective prosecution, strict probation with repayment to victims and sound juvenile programming all contribute to this decline despite an increase in overall population.

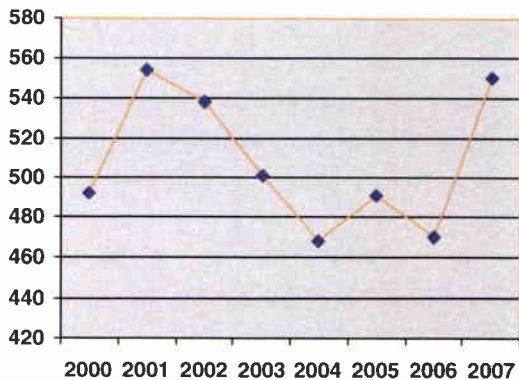
Juvenile Delinquency

There were 123 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Antrim County Family Division in 2007. In Leelanau County, there were 104 and in Grand Traverse County there were 451, for a total of 678 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in the circuit.



Domestic Relations

The number of divorces and paternity cases reached a record high in 2001 and then began to decline. After remaining stable between 2003 and 2005, the number of divorces declined in 2006 and again in 2007. Sadly, this trend appears more related to a decline in marriage than to the increased stability of family relationships as the number of paternity cases has risen.

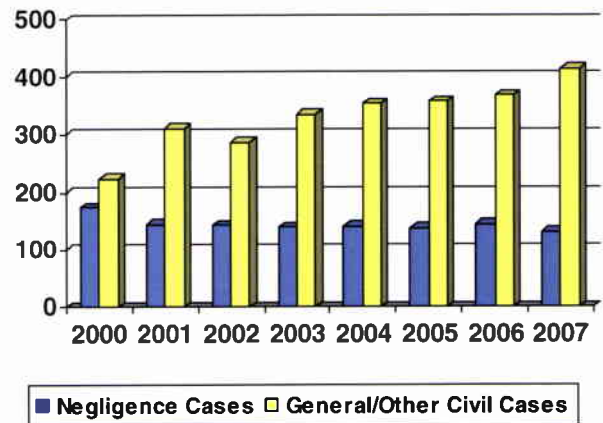


Personal Protection Orders

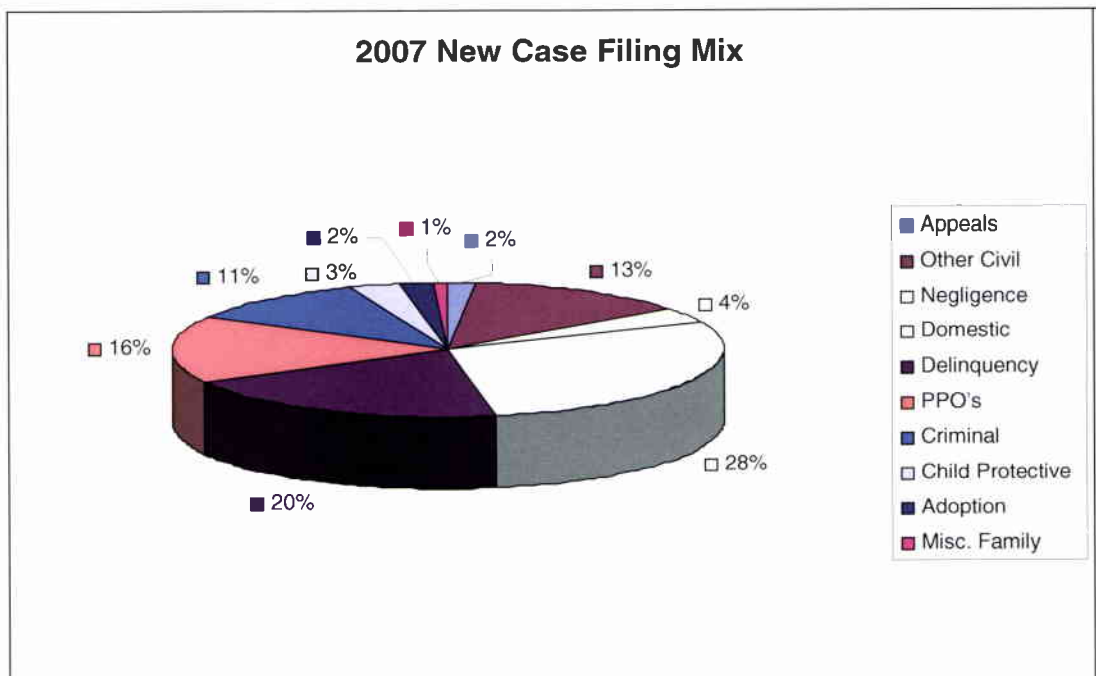
A total of 550 requests for personal protection orders were filed in 2007, compared to 470 last year. Of the requests filed, 366 were requested in domestic situations, 168 were requested in stalking situations and 16 were requested against juveniles. There were 289 personal protection orders actually issued - only 9 more than last year. Of these, 227 were domestic, 30 were stalking and 2 were against juveniles.

Negligence/Other Civil Cases

Negligence cases represent a relatively small fraction of the total annual case filings, but they are among the most complex and challenging cases. Typical negligence cases include automobile trauma, medical negligence, premises liability and disputes regarding insurance coverage or benefits. The attention paid to these cases resulted in significant court reforms that were made effective for cases filed after the spring of 1996. In 1996, negligence case filings constituted 12% of the Court's total filings. In 2007, 131 new negligence cases were filed which represents an all time low of only 3.8% of the new case filings. General and other civil matters constituted 12% of the new case filings at the beginning of the decade. In 2007, 414 general and other civil new cases were filed which still represents 12% of the new case filings.



The pie chart shows the make up of all of the new cases filed in 2007.



Civil Case Management

Case evaluation, facilitative mediation and final settlement conferences result in the resolution of a large number of cases, thereby reducing taxpayer cost by reducing the overall need for jurors, compensation for lay and expert witnesses in criminal cases and delaying the need for additional judges and courtrooms.

Case Evaluation

Case evaluation is a non-binding, alternative dispute resolution process in which a panel of experienced attorneys, based on written summaries and oral presentations, evaluates the case. In 2007, 275 cases (274 from Circuit Court and 1 from the Antrim Probate Court) were ordered to case evaluation. Of those cases, 191 were resolved prior to the case evaluation and 84 cases were evaluated. In 9 cases, the parties accepted the case evaluation. Three cases were resolved before the evaluation responses were due. The remaining 72 cases (86%) were not resolved through case evaluation and continued on to final settlement conference.

Final Settlement Conference

Of the 72 cases that were set for a final settlement conference, 31 (43%) were settled before or at the final settlement conference, 7 were dismissed before trial and 2 proceeded to trial. At year end, a total of 32 of these cases are still pending.

Facilitative Mediation

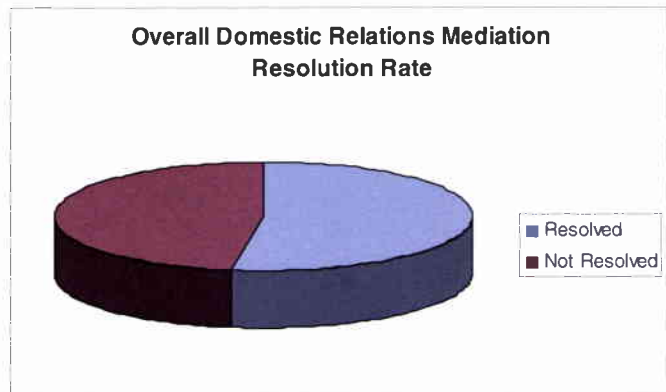
Facilitative mediation is an alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party facilitates confidential communication between the parties in an attempt to help them reach a mutually agreeable resolution.

In 2007, the Court ordered both child-related and property-related issues in domestic relations matters into facilitative mediation. There were 169 pre-judgment domestic relations cases ordered into mediation for property-related issues. Of those, 72 cases (36%) were settled or otherwise resolved before the mediation hearing. One case was removed from the mediation schedule by the assigned Judge. Of the 97 cases that were mediated, 54 (56%) were resolved during the mediation hearing and 43 (44%) were not.

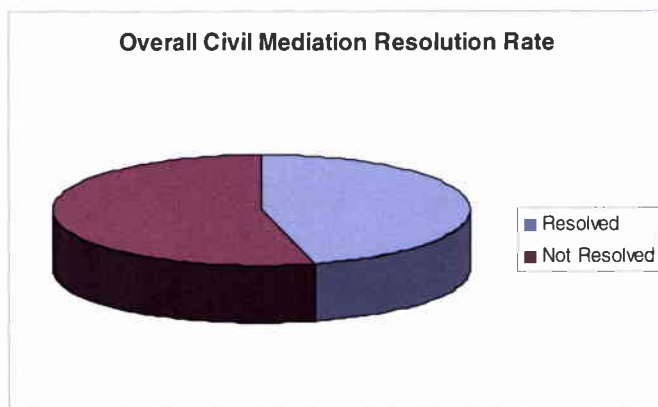
Another 108 pre-judgment domestic relations cases were ordered into mediation for child-related issues. Of those cases, 53 were resolved by other dispositions before the mediation hearing. Of the 55 cases that were mediated, 38 cases (69%) were resolved at the hearing with the mediator's assistance and 17 (31%) were not.

The Domestic Relations Referees also ordered 210 cases to mediation for child-related issues in pre- and post-judgment matters. Of those, 91 cases were resolved before the mediation hearing, 19 were

removed from mediation by the assigned Judge, and 1 case is still pending. Of the 118 cases actually mediated, 50 (42%) were resolved through mediation and 68 (58%) were not. The overall resolution rate for all mediated domestic relations matters is illustrated in the pie chart.



A total of 273 civil cases were ordered into facilitative mediation. Of those, 174 cases were general civil cases and 99 were personal injury cases. A total of 101 cases were settled or otherwise resolved prior to mediation - 67 (66%) of those were general civil cases and 34 (34%) were personal injury cases. A total of 153 of the cases that were ordered into facilitative mediation were actually mediated. Of those, 70 cases (46%) were resolved at mediation. Of the 70 cases that were resolved at mediation, 51 (73%) were general civil and 19 (27%) were personal injury. Of the 83 cases that were not resolved at mediation, 49 (59%) were general civil and 34 (41%) were personal injury. At year end, there were 19 of the cases that were ordered into facilitative mediation that were still pending - 7 general civil and 12 personal injury.

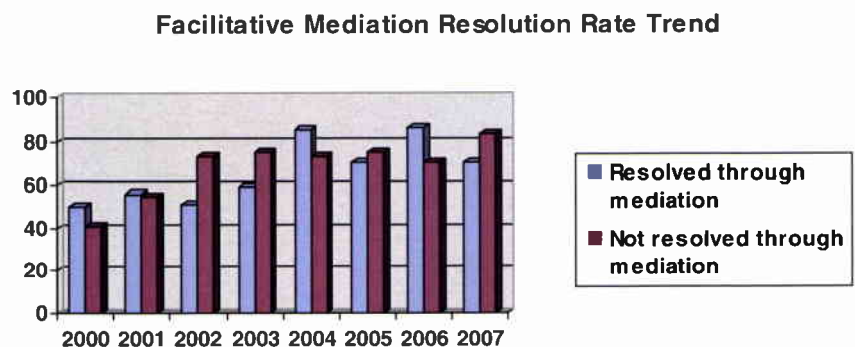


mediation, 51 (73%) were general civil and 19 (27%) were personal injury. Of the 83 cases that were not resolved at mediation, 49 (59%) were general civil and 34 (41%) were personal injury. At year end, there were 19 of the cases that were ordered into facilitative mediation that were still pending - 7 general civil and 12 personal injury.

The historical success of facilitative mediation in civil cases is illustrated by the bar graph. The number and type of cases ordered into mediation fluctuates over time and affects the overall resolution rate. In 2001, for example,

the Court began referring personal injury cases to facilitative mediation. These cases are not as amenable to mediation as are other types of cases. In 2007, only 27% of the personal injury cases that were mediated were

resolved at mediation while 51% of the general civil cases that were mediated were resolved at mediation. However, mediation does reduce the range of disagreement and accelerates the process of settlement prior to trial.



Criminal Case Management Caseload

In 2007, the Thirteenth Circuit Court Judges sentenced 321 felons. Of those, 116 were sentenced to prison; 42 were sentenced to jail; 159 were sentenced to probation with jail time; and 4 were sentenced to probation without any jail time. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the prison commitment rate in Leelanau County was 28.5%; in Antrim County the prison commitment rate was 25%; and in Grand Traverse County the prison commitment rate was 34.7%, for an overall prison commitment rate of 32%. By comparison, the state prison commitment rate was 20.7%. However, the Court's commitment rate is elevated to some degree by the number of felony drunk drivers who are referred to the District Court and processed as misdemeanors, rather than being sentenced to jail and probation as felons.

The following is a list of crimes for which individuals were sentenced in 2007.

	Prison	Jail	Probation w/ Jail	Probation	Totals
CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON					
Felonious Assault	5	1	1		7
Aggravated Stalking	1				1
Assault and Battery	3	2	2		7
Surveillance of Unclothed Person			1		1
Child Abuse	2				2
Possess Child Sexually Abusive Material	5		6		11
Criminal Sexual Conduct					
1st degree	3				3
2nd degree	3		1		4
3rd degree	6				6
4th degree	2		2		4
Domestic Violence 3rd offense	1	2	3		6
Home Invasion	3	1	6		10
Armed Robbery	1				1
Unarmed Robbery	1				1
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY					
Arson	1				1
Breaking and Entering	5		6		11
Breaking and Entering a Motor Vehicle	2				2
Embezzlement			8		8
False Pretenses	2				2
Forgery	3				3
Larceny	1		1		1
Larceny in a Building	7	5	19		31
Larceny from a Motor Vehicle			1		1
Larceny of Firearms			2		2

	Prison	Jail	Probation w/ Jail	Probation	Totals
Malicious Destruction of Property		2			2
No Account Checks		2	6		8
NSF Checks		1			1
Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property	1	1	2		4
Safe Breaking	1				1
Steal/Possess/Unauth. Use Financial Transaction Device		3			3
Torture/Kill an Animal			1		1
Uttering and Publishing		2	7		9
Retail Fraud	1	1	1		3
Unauthorized Driving of Motor Vehicle		1			1
CRIMES INVOLVING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE					
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Marijuana	4	6	8		18
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine	10	1	10		21
Poseess LSD			1		1
Obtain by Fraud			1		1
Maintaining a Drug House	2	3	12		17
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER					
Desertion/Abandonment/Non-support	2		6		8
Failure to Pay Child Support	4		7	4	15
False Report of a Bomb Threat			1		1
Gross Indecency			1		1
Identity Theft	2				2
Sex Offender Failure to Register	2	2	1		5
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY					
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	1				1
Carrying a Dangerous Weapon w/ Unlawful Intent	2				2
Fleeing/Eluding/Resisting/Obstructing Police Officer	5	1			6
Furnishing Contraband to Prisoner in Jail		1	2		3
Possession of a Firearm by a Felon	1				1
OUIL 3 rd	20	4	33		57
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST					
Bribe/Intimidate a Witness	1				1
TOTALS	116	42	159	4	321**

**This total does not include all of the felonies charged in the Circuit. Offenders who commit multiple crimes in one episode are only counted once for their most serious crime.

Probation Department

Probation officers are employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections. There are nine probation officers for the three counties who each supervise an average of 80 clients per month. In addition, they are responsible for preparing a pre-sentence investigation report

regarding each defendant. A pre-sentence investigation report includes an interview and statement from the defendant and information regarding the defendant's background, family, education, physical characteristics, and previous criminal history. The Court utilizes the report when determining an appropriate sentence.

In 2007, the Probation Department completed 35 pre-sentence investigation reports in Leelanau County, 71 in Antrim County and 178 in Grand Traverse County for a total of 284 or an average of almost 24 pre-sentence investigation reports per month. These figures include new conviction and delayed sentence updates, but not probation violation updates. There were a total of 124 probation violations initiated in 2007 that required pre-sentence investigation report updates - 30 in Antrim County, 13 in Leelanau County and 81 in Grand Traverse County - approximately 10.33 per month.

In addition to their other responsibilities, the members of the Probation Department assist with collection efforts to recover costs and restitution and work closely with the Office of Community Corrections to begin the rehabilitative process by setting up and supervising clients on early release programs, including tether, or substance abuse treatment. Community Corrections saved 25,477 county jail bed days (almost 70 daily) during the 2006-



Antrim County: Dawn Bard, Christa Gaugler,
Jim Ribby



Leelanau County: Steve Brett, Linda Lautner



Grand Traverse County

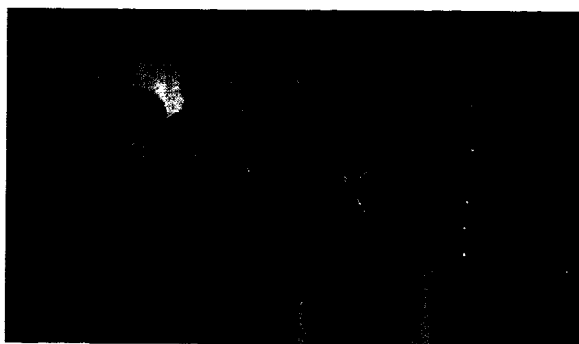
Back Row: Linda Lautner, Chuck Welch, William Flemming, Jim Monette, Bill Catinella,
Front Row: Tom Chapman, Jo Meyers, Sandra Blake, Sally Miklos

2007 fiscal year. More than 82.5% of the felons successfully complete the Community Corrections program.

FAMILY DIVISION

The Family Division of the Circuit Court has jurisdiction over criminal cases involving minors, child abuse and neglect, guardianships of juveniles, adoption proceedings, and domestic relations matters. In Leelanau County, 127 new domestic relations cases were filed and 124 domestic relations cases were disposed of in 2006. In Antrim County, 223 new domestic relations cases were filed and the Court disposed of 228 cases. In Grand Traverse County, 685 new domestic relations cases were filed and the Court disposed of 715 cases. In addition, the Family Division of the 13th Circuit Court for all three counties handled 714 juvenile delinquencies, 88 abuse and neglect cases, 38 miscellaneous family matters, 85 adoptions and 475 requests for adult and juvenile personal protection orders.

Each county maintains a local office of the Family Division. Family Division records are maintained in the County Clerk's Office for each respective County.



LEELANAU COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT

Back Row: Tom Mayhew, Joseph Povolo, Therese Schaub, Susan Richards, Judge Joseph E. Deegan
Front Row: Julie Orr, Josephine Lingaur, Betsy Fisher, Ryan Douglass

The Leelanau County Family Division has an active Volunteer Program that coordinates the Community Service Work Garden, among other programs. All of the members of the juvenile staff are heavily involved in the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council. Betsy Fisher and Therese Schaub are trained coaches for the Girls on the Run Program which is designed to help girls between the ages of 8 and 11 celebrate being girls and develop strong self-esteem through physical fitness. Tom Mayhew is a Diversion Program counselor who emphasizes prevention. Leelanau County also has a strong substance abuse program. Ryan Douglass provides the Court's drug testing service.



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT

Therapeutic Programs Coordinator Greg Brainard,
Court Reporter Janet McGee, Judge David Stowe,
Referees Dennis Mikko and Cynthia Conlon

In Grand Traverse County, the Family Division is divided between Circuit Court Judges Rodgers and Power and Probate Judge David Stowe. Judge Stowe presides over one-half of all domestic relations cases involving minors and all personal protection orders involving minors. In 2007, 706 new domestic cases were filed – 480 involving minor children and 226 not involving minor children.

The Family Division under the direction of Judge Stowe is also vested with the authority to preside over all juvenile delinquency and parental abuse and neglect cases. There were 466 new juvenile delinquency petitions, 66 new neglect and abuse petitions involving 120 children, 48 new adoptions, and 401 new requests for adult and juvenile personal protection orders filed in Grand Traverse County in 2007. This higher accountability and the Court's strength-based philosophy help to reduce crime and recidivism and increase school attendance, which ultimately results in a reduction in the adult crime rate and jail population. In 2007, however, 466 new juvenile

delinquency petitions were filed. This continued to represent a significant increase and the



continuation of a trend that began in 2004.

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS

Eric Salani, Cheryl Goodwin, Jeff Burdick, Barb
Donaldson, Roger LaLonde, Kate Eskilsen



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Cindy Edmonson - Delinquency, Sue Bennett and Janet Kronk - Neglect & Abuse/Adoption, Joanie Layton - Juvenile, Cheryl Church - Collections

The Court has also witnessed an increase in the number of abuse and neglect cases filed in recent years. In 2001, there were only 42 children in out-of-home placements. In 2007, there were 66 new abuse and neglect cases involving 120 children.

The Court has a Volunteer Services Division that develops specific juvenile programs and oversees and manages a large cadre of dedicated volunteers who work with youth in the area of prevention and probation. Many volunteers work one-to-one in mentoring roles, as well as tutor-friend, probation monitor, and Drug Court mentor.

The Court continues to utilize an aggressive prevention model in dealing with both delinquency and abuse and neglect cases. Many programs now exist to meet the needs of our children and families, including Adolescent and Family Drug Court, Learning Partners, Truancy Intervention, Court Appointed Special

Advocate ("CASA"). A CASA is a volunteer who has had extensive training and is assigned to and helps speak for the best interest of the child in family-involved abuse and neglect proceedings.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Coordinator Linda Fawcett,
Administrative Assistants Kelly Maiszak and Judy Sanders,
Laura Shumate (Learning Partners),
Cheri Haines (Community Service)

The Family Division established a collections program in April of 2001. The program is intended to minimize the cost of services to the taxpayers of this community by placing the financial responsibility on the juveniles and their parents as required by Michigan law. The Family Division works with many families who suffer from financial hardships. In cases of hardship or indigence, the Court has a policy in place for review of financial situations which could result in a reduction of overall charges. The program has been a success with monthly increases in dollars collected.

In Antrim County, 2007 began and ended with a realization of a significant statewide economic downturn and its direct impact on local units of government. Recognizing this, the Court has prioritized its mission as that of maintaining mandatory services, with a focus on the conservation of current resources. Made easier after seven years of transitioning new programming within the juvenile section of the Court, the past year allowed for the consistent exercise of child centered services. Every young person subject to the Court's jurisdiction is serviced through a virtual individual rehabilitative plan which enables the evaluator to tailor programming to the child. Proven local programs such as Therapeutic Services, Family Support, and Flexible Funding, in conjunction with utilizing the services of adjoining jurisdictions, has created a most efficient and effective delivery of rehabilitative measures to children and families. This continued focus realized a 3% decrease in net Child Care Fund expenditures compared to 2006, and the smallest child and family welfare contribution by the funding unit since the early 1990s.



ANTRIM COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT

Standing: Bill Hefferan, Sandy Davids, Teresa Ankney, Pat Theobald, Kim Albert, Raelene Reilly
Seated: Honorable Norman R. Hayes

In 2008, this Division looks forward to continuing its history of building positive partnerships within Antrim County and all of northwest lower Michigan while weathering difficult economic times. A new initiative will build a System of Care in partnership with Community Mental Health and the Department of Human Services targeting first and second grade children for early intervention. With the continued support of the Antrim County Clerk Laura Sexton and all nine members of the Antrim County Commission, Judge Hayes and his staff look forward to the challenge of 2008 and beyond.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE REFEREES



Dennis Mikko and **Cynthia Conlon** are referees for domestic relations and juvenile matters in the Family Division. Both are attorneys licensed to practice law in Michigan and came to the Court with substantial trial experience. The Referees preside over child abuse/neglect cases, juvenile offender matters and all child-related issues in domestic relations

cases in all three counties. Through its alternative dispute resolution program, specifically facilitative mediation and final settlement conferences, the Court encourages and enables parents to resolve their issues cooperatively and reach mutually agreeable solutions without the adversity and expense often associated with trial.



In 2007, the Referees conducted approximately 263 hearings in custody, parenting time and child support disputes and 889 show cause hearings regarding support payment, medical expense reimbursement and parenting time denial. The Referees reviewed 418 requests for personal protection orders and conducted approximately 1,772 hearings in various delinquency and abuse and neglect matters.

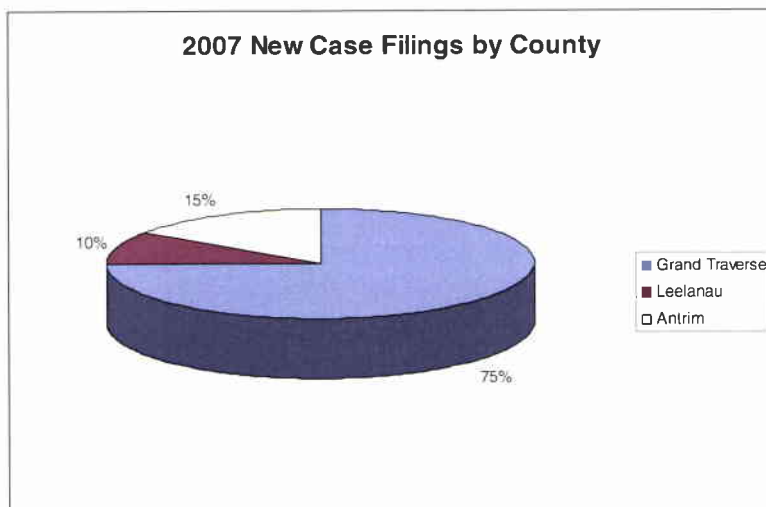
FRIEND OF THE COURT



Back Row: Fran Boyle, Julie Conway, Jayne Arnold, Angela Pelletier, Ellene Peters, Carol Rose, Jeremy Hogue
Middle Row: Pete Walters, Tracie Ames, Gloria VanHoose, Alisa Gallo, Mary Anne Lyberg, Mary Anderson
Front Row: Karen Sanchez, Nan Krueger, Dawn Rogers, Al Crocker

Dawn Rogers is the Friend of the Court. The Friend of the Court Office (“FOC”) is responsible for representing the best interests of the children in those cases which come before the Circuit Court Family Division because of divorce, custody, child support, visitation or paternity disputes. The FOC case managers conduct interviews, gather financial information, mediate with parties and prepare written proposals offering their recommendations for review by the Family Division Judges as to what would be the best resolution possible for the children. Whenever the Court enters an order regarding custody, child support, visitation or paternity issues, the FOC is responsible for enforcing that order.

After many years of steady increases in the number of new cases filed, the FOC caseload appears to have leveled out. The total caseload for 2007 is 6,303 compared to 6,276 in 2006; 6,250 in 2005; and 6,331 in 2003. [Figures are not available for 2004.] In 2007, 607 new cases were opened; an average of 51 per month. Of those, 456 (75%) were from Grand Traverse, 93 (15%) were from Antrim and 58 (10%) were from Leelanau. Of those cases, 325 (54%) were divorces, while 209 (35%) represent paternity or family support act cases. The remainder are custody cases (filed under the Custody Act), interstate or in-state transfers. There were 12 divorce cases without minor children referred to the FOC for an investigation and recommendation on temporary spousal support.



During 2007, the Case Management staff conducted investigations and made recommendations for temporary orders in 547 cases in an average of 22 days from receipt of the case at the FOC to submission of a recommended order to the judge. In 51% of the cases in which initial investigations were conducted, some form of public assistance was being provided, primarily (86%) Medicaid.

Persons without legal assistance (pro per) represented 29% of the new cases filed in 2007. Of the initial orders generated by the FOC, 61% granted custody to the mother, 4% granted custody to the father, 31% provided for shared physical custody. The balance represents split care, third party care and cases

where custody was reserved initially, usually due to the fact that the parties were still residing in the same household. In 62% of the new cases, the parties agreed to custody at the initial conference; in 21% of the new cases, custody was determined by default (one of the parties failed to appear or respond).

The FOC conducted 565 reviews in 2007; an average of 47 monthly. The average number of days for the completion of a review was 22. 80% of the reviews addressed child support; 17% addressed parenting time issues. The balance addressed issues such as custody and domicile changes. The FOC prepared 221 stipulated orders for clients in 2007 in an average of 5 days. In 2007, the Court granted 46 petitions to “opt out” of FOC services.

In 2007, 1,347 support enforcement hearings were scheduled - 407 were resolved by the FOC prior to hearing; 799 were heard by the family division referees and 141 were heard by the Court.

In Grand Traverse County, a total of 496 warrants were issued - 183 for failure to appear; 313 for failure to comply with a previously court-ordered payment plan. During 2007, 250 outstanding warrants were resolved by FOC (for example, payment arrangements made, bond or reduced bond posted at FOC, income withholding established) and there were 196 arrests.

In Antrim County, a total of 308 warrants were issued - 91 for failure to appear and 217 for failure to comply with court-ordered payment plan. The FOC resolved 156 outstanding warrants during 2007 and there were 133 arrests.

In Leelanau County, 109 warrants were issued in 2007 - 27 for failure to appear and 82 for failure to comply with court-ordered payment plan. The FOC resolved 65 outstanding warrants and there were 45 arrests.

The spreadsheet on the next page tracks child support charges/child support distributions and child support collections distributed toward arrears for the past 5 years. The source of this information is the State’s Department of Human Services’ Data Warehouse - the Federal 284A report. In each instance the report is reflective of the fiscal year (Oct 1 - Sept 30). Please note also that the data is for *distributions*, not *collections*. State data showing *comparisons* on current support collections and collections on arrearage cases is also attached.

Child Support Collections

2007

2006

2005

2004

2003

Antrim County

Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)

\$ 2,944,856.00

\$ 1,965,406.00

\$ 891,971.00

\$ 2,877,516.00

\$ 2,031,864.00

\$ 658,415.00

\$ 2,861,468.00

\$ 1,985,528.00

\$ 722,065.00

\$ 2,702,484.00

\$ 1,884,829.00

\$ 692,557.00

\$ 2,788,031.00

\$ 1,989,100.00

\$ 713,795.00

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected

66.7%

97.0%

70.6%

93.5%

69.7%

95.4%

71.3%

96.9%

Grand Traverse County

Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)

\$ 13,289,470.00

\$ 9,558,549.00

\$ 2,801,329.00

\$ 12,863,901.00

\$ 9,567,209.00

\$ 2,309,863.00

\$ 11,904,460.00

\$ 8,936,840.00

\$ 2,159,765.00

\$ 11,398,374.00

\$ 8,398,173.00

\$ 2,080,250.00

\$ 11,328,547.00

\$ 8,354,401.00

\$ 2,266,993.00

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected

71.9%

93.0%

74.4%

92.3%

73.7%

91.9%

73.7%

93.8%

Leelanau County

Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)

Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)

\$ 2,688,671.00

\$ 1,899,545.00

\$ 551,817.00

\$ 2,705,894.00

\$ 2,000,898.00

\$ 508,822.00

\$ 2,555,834.00

\$ 1,945,334.00

\$ 552,482.00

\$ 2,462,597.00

\$ 1,899,639.00

\$ 522,226.00

\$ 2,606,531.00

\$ 2,011,236.00

\$ 564,279.00

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected

70.6%

91.2%

73.9%

92.8%

77.1%

98.3%

77.2%

98.8%

Combined

Current Support Due - All Counties

Current Support Distributed - All Counties

Support Distributed as Arrears - All Counties

\$ 18,922,997.00

\$ 13,423,500.00

\$ 4,245,117.00

\$ 18,447,311.00

\$ 13,599,971.00

\$ 3,477,100.00

\$ 17,321,762.00

\$ 12,867,702.00

\$ 3,434,312.00

\$ 16,563,428.00

\$ 12,182,641.00

\$ 3,295,033.00

\$ 16,723,109.00

\$ 12,354,737.00

\$ 3,545,067.00

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected

Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected

70.9%

93.4%

73.7%

92.6%

73.6%

93.4%

73.9%

95.1%

Some of the Friend of the Court activity highlights for 2007 include:

- The FOC received Access and Visitation grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office and has continued its relationship with Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan to provide supervised parenting time and safe parenting time exchanges for families on the caseload.
- The FOC continues to refer parents who are not paying their child support to Michigan Works for employment services. Michigan Works sends a representative to referee show cause hearings in Grand Traverse County to meet with clients needing employment assistance.
- The FOC continues to provide a bi-monthly educational program for parents going through a divorce (Start Making It Livable for Everyone) SMILE, which includes a presentation from a community-based therapist on the effects of divorce on children.
- The FOC continues to expand its resources for locating parents, including, Accurant, a division of Lexis/Nexis - which is paid for using bench warrant enforcement funds - and several other locate tools. With the reorganization of the case manager assistants, we have been able to have regular "locate" work done on cases with outstanding warrants. Improvements to State databases have allowed FOC access to quarterly wage information, workers compensation and social security benefit information.
- In 2007, the FOC received new computers from the State. FOC also upgraded the computer monitors and switched its word processing software from WordPerfect to Word. FOC staff received training through Northwestern Michigan College on Word and the staff converted dozens of forms and documents to Word. Staff also received training in Windows XP and Excel spreadsheets.
- Working with the local Community Reconciliation Service ("CRS"), referral of families to CRS for post-judgment mediation of custody/parenting time disputes continued in 2007. Fifty-three families were referred to CRS for mediation of domestic relations matters.
- The FOC again obtained a report of individuals who received hunting/fishing licenses and had past due child support obligations. Enforcement notices were mailed based on this information.
- The bench warrant enforcement fund dollars have been used to reimburse local Sheriff's Departments for the mileage and officer wages expended in transporting persons arrested for nonpayment of child support. Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau County Sheriffs' Departments were paid \$7,934.02 for the expenses of transporting individuals arrested on child support warrants.
- The FOC continues to work with the Grand Traverse IT Department on implementation of a document imaging system.
- In December 2007, FOC prepared for a move of its operation from the Historic Courthouse to the Governmental Center during Courthouse renovations.

JURY BOARDS

Each of the three counties has a three-member jury board. The members of the jury boards are appointed by the County Boards of Commissioners for six-year terms. The members of the Grand Traverse County jury board are Nancy Muha, Donna Keith and Mary Orth. The members of the Leelanau jury board are Al Porter, Teresa Morio and Joyce Stackable. The members of the Antrim County jury board are Kathleen Beal, Jan Olach and Patricia Jones Colvin.

Each jury board obtains the names of prospective jurors from the Secretary of State list of licensed drivers and issued state identifications and is responsible for sending out the original juror questionnaires for their respective county. After the original questionnaire is returned, the jury boards pull the names of the jurors for their Circuit Court, District Court and Probate/Family Court.

The County Clerk's Office in each county is responsible for actually summoning the jurors for a particular Court panel. The County Clerk's Office is also responsible for following up with any juror who fails to return the initial questionnaire or appear when summoned. The County Clerk's Office pays the jurors for their service. The per diem is \$25 for a half day and \$50 for a full day of service.

To qualify as a juror, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the county for which selected. A prospective juror must also be conversant with the English language, be physically and mentally able to carry out the functions of a juror (temporary inability is not considered a disqualification), not have served as a petit juror in a court of record during the preceding 12 months and not have been convicted of a felony.

In 2007, 415 people were summoned for jury service in Leelanau County. Of those prospective jurors, 36 were required to report for duty and 7 actually served in the one civil case that went to trial. The total cost to Leelanau County for jury service, including the per diem pay, mileage reimbursement, meals and miscellaneous expenses, was \$3,744.99. In Antrim County, 495 jurors were summoned in 2007, 107 reported for duty and 39 actually served in the 3 criminal cases that went to trial. The total cost to Antrim County was \$7,587.20. In Grand Traverse County, 1,740 prospective jurors were summoned; 329 reported for duty; and 89 actually served in the 8 criminal cases that went to trial. The total cost of jury service in Grand Traverse County was \$17,233.89. Note that these figures do not include jurors who were summoned for and served in probate or juvenile matters.

COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim Counties each has its own law library to which the judges and their staff have access. The Grand Traverse Law Library, located on the fourth floor of the Grand Traverse County Courthouse in Traverse City, is the largest of the county libraries and is open to the

public on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grand Traverse County, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and the Traverse Area District Library operate in partnership to fund, house and staff the Grand Traverse County Law Library.

The Grand Traverse County Law Library maintains current Michigan and Federal law collections and offers computer-assisted research. The Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and Traverse Attorney Referral Service are operated out of the Grand Traverse County Law Library and the Northwestern Michigan College Paralegal Program conducts a legal research class in the library each fall.

SPECIAL EVENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Michigan Judges Association



Judge Rodgers has long been active in the Michigan Judges Association (“MJA”) as an Executive Committee member and officer. In 2007, he served as MJA President. MJA reviews and comments on legislation of importance to Michigan’s judicial system, coordinates its efforts with other Judges’ associations and the Michigan Supreme Court and works to promote adequate staffing, facilities and equipment for the judicial branch of government. It celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2007 and held its summer

conference on Mackinac Island. Significant credit for the organization and conduct of a very successful statewide conference must be given to 13th Circuit Court staff members Julie Arends and Teri Quinn.



Humanitarian of the Year Award

Linda Fawcett, Coordinator of the Grand Traverse County Probate and Circuit Court Family Division's Volunteer Services Program, was selected to receive the 2007 Humanitarian of the Year Award. Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan presented the award to Linda at their annual meeting on Monday, November 5, 2007. The award is given annually to an individual who makes the welfare of children their number one priority and whose dedication extends beyond expectations. Linda shared the honor as she accepted the award with a speech that highlighted the efforts of the Court's many volunteers. We are all very proud of Linda and pleased that she has been recognized for her tireless efforts that have such a profound, positive impact on the youth in our community. Congratulations, Linda.



Liberty Bell Award

Every year on Law Day, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association organizes various activities which help to introduce members of the general public to the legal system and legal profession. The Bar offers tours of the Grand Traverse County Courthouse and County Law Library. The Bar staffs "Ask the Lawyer" forums throughout the community to answer law-related questions and hosts an annual theme student essay contest.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to a non-lawyer member of the community who promotes a better understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights as they affect our lives, encourages a greater respect for our laws and courts, stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties in addition to their rights, contributes to the effective functioning of the democratic institutions of government, and fosters a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law with fairness and consistency.

Anne Magoun was this year's Liberty Bell Award recipient. Anne has been an active member of our community for almost 20 years. She has just completed her second two-year term as President of the Michigan League of Women Voters. Anne has a tremendous record in accomplishing the goals that the Liberty Bell Award stands for, including her dedicated involvement in the League of Women Voters-Grand Traverse Area and the Michigan League of Women Voters, serving as President from 2003 to 2007, founding the Women's History Project, and being involved in gender equity issues with the Traverse City Area Public Schools. In addition, Anne is on the Board of Directors of Assisting Children's Education, which raises money for teachers and staff for classroom projects.

IN MEMORIUM

Chaplain Robert Alan Hall, April 8, 1926 - July 6, 2007

Grand Traverse County Sheriff Scott Fewins and Jail Administrator Captain Bob Hall look on as **Chaplain Robert Hall**, pictured here with his wife, Jamie, is honored by the 13th Circuit Court Judges in



2002 for his 50 years of service to the inmates of the Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse County jails. Chaplain Hall passed away this year after 57 years of service to the jail population through the Forgotten Man Ministries. Because of his interest in and compassion for others and his strong

faith, Chaplain Hall was committed to the inmates of the jails - making sure they knew that they had not been forgotten and that there were better things ahead in their lives if they so chose. His sincerity and warmth of character made him a true friend to those whose lives he touched. His firm handshake was a constant reminder of his strength and dedication. He will be remembered for his caring ways by all who came in contact with him and he will be greatly missed.